

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 12, 14, 17-22, 25-27, and 30 are currently pending. The foregoing amendment cancels claims 9-11, 13, 15, 16, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 12, 14, and 19 are amended by the foregoing amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 12 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 9-11, 13, 15, 16, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Yoshiyuki (JP 07-057077). Claims 28, 29, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshiyuki.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-8, 17, 18, 25-27, and 30, and the indication in the Office Action that claims 12, 14, and 19-22 contain allowable subject matter.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on June 30, 2003, Applicants note with appreciation the attachment of an initialed copy of the corresponding Form PTO 1449 to the Office Action. However, Applicants note that the “Examiner Initial” box corresponding to the submitted document entitled “A Multiresolution Watermark for Digital Images” was not initialized. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a fully-initialized copy of the June 30th Form PTO 1449 be attached with the next official correspondence from the USPTO.

Regarding the rejection of claims 12 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendment sufficiently addresses the concerns indicated in the Office Action. Specifically, claim 12 is amended to recite, in relevant part, “performing normal orthogonal transformation on a designated dither matrix.” Further, claim 19 is amended to include a period at the end of the claim. As such,

Application No. 09/708,020
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2004

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The foregoing amendment cancels claims 9-11, 13, 15, 16, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 31, and, therefore, the prior art rejection of the same is rendered moot. Claims 12 and 14 are rewritten in independent form, including all features of the respective base claims 11 and 13.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-8, 12, 14, 17-22, 25-27, and 30 are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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